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MISCELLANEOUS.

Neurology of the Female Reproductive Organs.

BY M. R. MITCHELL, A.B., M.D.,
Professor of Obstetrics, Kansas Medical College.

Read at the meeting of the Western Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology, at Omaha, Neb., Dec. 29, 1894.

My theme, considered etymologically, applies to the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the nerve structures of the female reproductive organs.

It is necessary only to make an allusion, in a general way, to the anatomy and physiology of these nerve structures. I will call to mind that the nerve supply of the uterus and its appendages is derived from the two great systems, viz., the "nerves of animal life" through the internal sacral nerves, and the "great sympathetic," through the inferior hypogastric plexuses.

The nerves of animal life mainly supply the sphincter fibers of the cervix uteri, and the sympathetic nerves mainly supply the uterine body, the fallopian tubes, and ovaries. Hence the explanation of the reflex nervous influence existing between these structures, and this accounts for the fact, that if one structure suffers, all the others must suffer with it.

The ovary becomes congested on account of ovulation, and has its sympathizers in the tubes and uterus.

The chief physiological determining cause of labor is traceable to the direct pressure of the uterine contents upon the sphincter fibers of the mouth of the womb, which irritation is reflected to the muscular stauctures of the uterine walls causing contraction and expulsive effort.

This same reflex influence put forth by the sympathetic nerve system clearly accounts for a striking physiological intimacy and a pathological affinity between the utero-ovarian and other structures of the body. Morning sickness, anorexia, and the various forms of a morbid appetite, can be best explained, perhaps, by the reflex action of a copious network of the sympathetic innervation of the utero-ovarian apparatus and of the stomach. Guerriot, in speaking of vomiting in pregnancy, says: "That an abnormal or morbid state, the nervous system as the carrier of reflex action, and the stomach, are the three prime factors in this malady." He therefore urges, "that any abnormal state of the uterus and its appendages, whether they be ulcers, excoriations flexures or of a specific nature, should be corrected; the nervous system, particularly the spinal nerve centers, should receive attention."

The pathological aspect of my theme must then assume an attitude of importance when we call to mind how frequently we are foiled in the attainment of a satisfactory etiological explanation of the existence of some new affection in a distal organ, or perhaps the sudden development of some latent malady.

Pozzi says: "There is no function upon which uterine disease reflects more constantly than upon the digestive, and ignorance of this fact may cause grave errors in diagnosis. Dilatation of the stomach is very common in metritis of long standing. These patients suffer from a loss of appetite, nausea, and a form of flatulence which occurs as a chronic tympanitis, so that the abdominal enlargement interferes with palpation and bimanual exploration."

According to Pozzi, "women suffering

with metritis or displacement often suffer with dry cough without any disease of the respiratory organs."

Among the long list of cutaneous affections we believe many may disappoint us as to their etiology until we look to a nervous influence pointing us to an inflammation, or some derangement connected with the uterus or its appendages. And we will be equally chagrined as to the successful relief of these dermopathies until the primary malady affecting the sexual organs may be discovered and relieved. Who has not observed the sudden appearance of an acne eruption coincidental with puberty or the menopause—when the function of ovulation is slow in becoming established, or when the menses are irregular or delayed. A young girl of fourteen or sixteen comes before you presenting many of the charms of beauty, yet on account of her pimply face her appearance is really repulsive. And the relief of the same may be postponed until her womanly functions have been made to attain a normal activity. This eruption seems to be along the trifacial, which is accompanied by filaments of the sympathetic.

In a thesis published in 1886 M. Tourneux expressed an opinion that menstruation causes various cutaneous eruptions which serve as a nidus for the streptococcus.

"Professor Hardy applies the term pemphigus to a bullous eruption of successive appearance, extending over several months, and which appeared only in young girls between fourteen and twenty, in whom menstruation had been interrupted."

The same writer considers "suppression of the menses as one of the most frequent causes of erythema nodosum."

A case is reported by Alibert of a young lady aged twenty-four, who was attacked with a general scaly eruption following suppression of the menses caused by a fright.

Pruritis vulvæ with an eczematous development is a frequent complication of the climacterix.

Scanzoni affirmed that anæmic women, who have at the same time some affection of the genital organs very often present various eruptions on the skin, especially when there occurs an intercurrent exacerbation of the uterine trouble. These are chronic eczema, acne, rosacea, urticaria, erythematous eruptions, as well as a furuncular diathesis.

Occasionally we observe general nervous manifestations, such as hysteria, chorea, which we are unable to trace to causation unless it be to utero-reflex origin.

A girl of seventeen, otherwise healthy and strong, was affected with dysmenorrhea and hysterical convulsions at each menstrual period. When a cervical stenosis was relieved, menstruation became normal and the convulsive attacks were not experienced.

Two young women during primparous pregnancies were affected with marked choreic symptoms. One was relieved in a few weeks under the administration of bromide of arsenic. In her second pregnancy she was not affected by the nervous lesion. The second case was only partially relieved under the use of the same remedy. After normal full-time confinement no further chorea was experienced until she was about three months gone in second pregnancy, when she was again attacked with chorea and convulsions resulting in miscarriage.

Parvin refers to a discussion of this subject in the London Obstetrical Society, in which Dr. Herman stated that he believed in the connection between chorea and pregnancy, and that the majority of such cases were benefited by the induction of premature labor or abortion.

Parvin also refers to two cases reported by Jones, of chorea complicating pregnancy, one at seven months when the chorea ceased after the induction of premature labor, the fœtus being decomposed. Also another case of chorea with delirium and paralysis of the left arm with recovery after confinement.

Paralysis is a neurotic complication occasionally affecting the pregnant woman.

About two years ago a lady six months pregnant came under my care who had become affected with motor paralysis of the lingual muscles which are supplied by branches of the fifth pair of nerves. There was no other marked complication indicat-

ing impairment of health. Vocal articulation was very imperfect until the end of gestation, when it began to improve, but she did not entirely recover for six months afterward.

In a study of these neuroses we cannot fail to observe the striking analogy in the occasional manifestations connected with the menstrual function in the young girl and those of the pregnant woman.

Functional aberations of the sensorial and intellectual faculties are occasionally observed in the young girl at the menstrual period, and quite frequently in the pregnant woman. Such disorders of the intelligence often proceed even to insanity.

In a majority of these cases no doubt there is a latent predisposition to mental derangement. I can now recall three cases of partial insanity occurring near the end of gestation. All seemed to be relieved of the positive indications of insanity after confinement. The history of all three of these cases seemed to show that they were of an excitable, nervous and irritable disposition. Two had had convulsions in previous labors. One had served a term in the insane asylum. The predisposing quality in these cases was excited to outward manifestation by the reflex influence of pelvic irritation.

Neurotic disturbances in the form of neuralgias of the face, of the intercostal region, and down the thighs are clearly traceable to different forms of metritis.

Such slight ailments as "Emmet's cicatricial plug," when removed, may give relief from a distal neurosis.

Thus far I have called attention to the reflex manifestation of nerve function pertaining to the female generative organs.

I desire now to refer to an exhibition of a more direct nerve disturbance in connection with these organs, namely, pains of child-birth. Much has been truly said as to the baneful influences of our modern civilization upon the parturient woman.

The customs and methods of dress, improper and insufficient nutrition; excessive, improper or insufficient physical exercise, injudicious or unwise marriages, and excesses of various kinds, have done and are doing much to intensify the sorrows and sufferings of child-birth.

Reference is often made to the uncivilized races, where women, in a barbarian or savage state are supposed to be less perverted as to physical development. And to this fact is attributed the supposed lack of suffering, and that child-bearing is regarded by these races with so little apprehension. I am inclined to think that the information generally obtainable in regard to these classes as to the real extent of their suffering in this respect is not very reliable.

We know that it is a high ambition among some of these savage nations to develop stoical characteristics for endurance of suffering and danger. And we believe further that whatever degree of diminution of pain in parturition the women of those barbarous races do experience, as compared with their more cultured sisters, is owing not entirely to the infringements upon physical development by the prevalent customs in refined and civilized life, but, to a great extent, to the deteriorating influences of low and indolent customs of life among those barbarous people. The certain tendency of the latter's accustomed modes of living, is to impair development of the nervous system. Their nerve sensibilities are blunted, and their perception of pain is by nature obtuse.

On the other hand, the highly cultured and refined, the physically developed, according to the best methods of civilized life, will attain a high grade of nerve structure, with functions of acute sensibility, and hence a keen perception of pain.

Pain in child-birth is mainly induced on account of the compression of the uterine nerves by contraction of the uterine muscular fibers, and the pressure of the pelvic nerves by the passing fœtus.

It is a disturbance of the integrity of the nerve structures, and so far as this nerve disturbance is concerned, it is pathological notwithstanding normal labor is very properly regarded a physiological process.

And now, although much of the pain and suffering in child-birth may be accounted for by a lack of the requisite physical development, unwholesome food and drink, the de-

teriorating fashions of dress and habits of society, yet, even with an equilibrium of the fullest development of all the physical powers of womanhood, the only logical and physiological conclusion must be that normal labor, in a normally developed womanhood, will be necessarily attended with an experience of more or less pain in every case, and that the ism, "painless labor," is a myth, a delusion, the effusion of intellectual fancy.

Report of a Case of Malignant Tumor of Right Kidney in a Child.

BY W. S. PICCARD, M.D., BURLINGAME.

Read before the Eastern Kansas Medical Society, at Topeka, April 9, 1895.

About the middle of December last I was called upon to prescribe for a boy, three years old, who was passing some blood clots with his urine. Before prescribing I asked for a specimen of the urine for examination, but on the following day was told that he was all right and the urine natural.

About ten days later I visited him for an attack of like character. He had frequent desire to pass water, and some pain when a clot passed. The next day the urine was again all right, and chemical and microscopical examination gave negative results.

Christmas night I was again called to see him on account of bloating of the bowels, and thinking it due to too much Christmas, prescribed a simple laxative and an injection as his bowels had been somewhat constipated. The next day his parents discovered a lump on the right side and I again visited him. The lump situated just below the border of the liver and nearly on the line of the ascending colon, was about the size of a hen egg, was dull on percussion, the dullness being continuous with that of the liver. The next day it had changed somewhat in location, and the liver could be plainly marked out above it, and by pressure could be separated from it. The bloating had somewhat subsided, which probably accounted for the slight change in location. I then thought it a fecal lump, and ordered high injection in conjunction with the other treatment. From this time on the lump increased somewhat in size and changed in position, gradually growing downward and toward the median line. At the same time there was swelling and dullness extending from this more prominent part upward and toward the right, and the part first observed became somewhat nodular. The bowels only moved by injections or by laxatives. The child's appetite was poor, though he drank large quantities of milk.

Realizing that there was a condition I did not understand, I asked for counsel. My consultant could give me no further light, thinking there might be some impaction; but there was a condition back of it that we could not fathom.

Another urinalysis was made with nothing abnormal found. About the middle of February he was sent to Topeka to be examined and, if thought advisable, to have a laparotomy performed. Here he was seen by several physicians, none of whom, as far as I could learn, would make a diagnosis.

I was told that each thought it might be fecal impaction, but that there was something more than this which could not be made out. Operation was advised, but was refused by the parents. After remaining three or four days he returned to Burlingame, and for the first time complained of pain in the abdomen, due, in my opinion, to having been so frequently examined, for after a few days rest this disappeared. He was again sent to Topeka and operation urged. But he then passed into the hands of a lady homeopathic physician who, so it was said, thought it impaction and treated him accordingly by continuing the high injections, etc.

About two weeks later he was brought home and came under my care again. The swelling had increased in size, the pulse was rapid and weak, and he took no nourishment excepting milk. He was anæmic and wasted considerably, though on lifting him his weight seemed remarkable, evidently being due to the abdominal tumor.

I was consulted regarding an operation, but the child's condition was so bad at this time that I advised against it. After a few visits I told the parents I could do nothing more, and that I thought the child would live but a short time.

Another physician was called and again the diagnosis was made of fecal impaction. However, the child grew steadily worse, and on Saturday morning last, April 6, I was called upon by the father and told that the little one was dead, and was requested to make a post mortem examination.

The examination was made in the presence of the last physician in attendance and the one who had seen the child with me sometime previous.

The abdomen had become much more distended during the four weeks I had not seen him, and measured 29½ inches in circumference. On percussion there was dullness over the whole of the right side of the abdomen, extending a little to the left of the median line and continuous above with the liver dullness, the liver being pushed over toward the left. The muscular tissue was much emaciated and the lower ribs on either side were bulged outward.

On opening the abdomen the intestines, including the ascending colon were pushed to the left of the median line and were found normal, excepting that there were two small fecal pieces in the appendix vermiformis, but as yet these had produced no trouble. There were a few fecal lumps in the intestines, but they were otherwise empty, distended slightly by gas in some portions, collapsed in others. Stomach normal; liver normal except in location, it being displaced upwards and toward the left; spleen normal.

The whole right side was filled by a tumor, extending from the diaphragm to the iliac region, and about one inch to the left of the median line. There were adhesions to the abdominal wall in front and to the right, to the diaphragm above, and to the ascending colon on the left.

Overlying the tumor in front was found a mass of inflammatory tissue partially broken down into pus. This mass was about the size of a man's hand, and was removed before the tumor was taken out.

Upon removal this tumor was found to be the right kidney, or rather a new growth arising from the right kidney. While not properly speaking a cystic kidney, it contained about one and a half to two quarts (estimated) of bloody fluid and degenerated tissue. The left kidney was normal.

The ureter to the right kidney appeared normal in size, was not occluded nor dilated. The bladder was empty and normal.

Upon opening the tumor it was found to be filled with broken down tissue, soft and friable. Part of the diaphragm was cut away in removing it.

Though no microscopic examination has been made, in my opinion it is a malignant growth, but whether sarcoma or carcinoma the microscope must decide.

Strumpel, in his "Practice of Medicine," says that comparatively speaking primary carcinoma of the kidney in children under four years of age is not uncommon, while the primary sarcoma is. But the author of the section on kidney troubles in Keating's "Encyclopedia of Children's Diseases," and other authors, reverse this statement.

Considering the case as a rare one, I have thought fit to report it, especially as the patient was seen by several of the Topeka physicians.

The tumor I have with me, and it can be examined by any who feel interested in doing so.

When opened and drained the tumor weighed between five and a half and six pounds, and it was thought from the amount of fluid it contained that its first weight must have been nine or ten pounds.

Bromidrosis of Feet.

E. Lang gives this in the *Medical Week:*

℞ Ext. agaric.....gr. vijss-xv
Acoholis .....℥j

M.

Sig. Use externally.

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Topeka, Kansas, Saturday, April 20, 1895.

The Evolution of Medicine.

It is not always easy to say just where the credit for some of our greatest discoveries and achievements belongs. The man who establishes a fact and first presents it to the world is usually accorded all the honor of discovery, and justly so, if it be entirely his own. In the majority of cases the so-called discoveries are simply the development of ideas which have existed for years. A simple multiplication of theories and the calculator claims the credit for a great discovery. The cause of fermentation and putrefaction was suggested more than a century before the birth of Lister. The microbe theory of disease is not by any means the product of recent years. It has been in process of development for centuries. As early as the sixteenth century Ambroise Pare had recognized the fact that it was what he called miasms in the air rather than the air itself which was injurious. The idea could yet hardly be accredited to him, for in the fifth century before Christ we find Empedocles walling up the gorge at Agrigentum to stop the plague. While there were no definite conclusions at that time, and possibly no well formed opinions as to the real causative agent, these suggestions of the truth may have played an important part in the final result. The process of development of any great truth is a matter of small comment; it is only the final culmination that strikes the world with wonder and amazement.

We have no wish to detract one iota from the honor due those men who have from the crudities of our ancestors evolved a science remarkable for the vastness of its scope and its comparative accuracy, but we do feel that too great honor cannot be accorded those master minds of a former century, who, out of that cloud of obscurity were able to penetrate so far into the mysteries and suggest as possible that which was to be established as a fact thousands of years hence. While giving to Koch all the honor for one of the greatest events in the history of medicine, we must not forget that to Van Leeuwen loek, in the seventeenth century, is due the credit for the actual demonstration of the existence of micro-organisms. So when we attempt to distribute the honors, we must remember that to no one mind is due both the origin and the perfection of the great achievements in medicine.

Serum therapy and the nuclein treatment of disease are simply further evolutions of the same ideas advanced centuries ago and in the same line of research evolved by Lister, Koch and others. They may fall far short of the requirements of a true antitoxin, but in that event the advancement that has been made marks a vast stride in the march toward perfection. The question of immunity, both inherent and acquired, is reaching a point approachiug a final determina-

tion. It has been clearly demonstrated that blood serum possesses certain germicidal properties, and it has been further demonstrated that blood serum contains a nuclein which possesses considerable germicidal properties of its own. Nuclein existing in other organs and tissues of the body also possesses this property, and it is not improbable that in the nuclein we may find the immunizing agent of animal life. At any rate it is most reasonable to conclude that in the further evolution of this idea will be developed, to a certainty, nature's method of protection against disease.

We have always believed that the final solution of this great problem belonged to the province of chemistry, and at some time there would be separated a chemical element or compound from the tissues of the body to which we could ascribe all the germicidal properties upon which we depend for immunity. It is but another step in the process of evolution, when it has been demonstrated that this property lies in the nuclein, to separate therefrom the element in its makeup responsible for this action. It is not impossible that in the further evolution of the germ theory of disease; it may be shown that the infecting property of the germ is due to some chomical agent inherent in its make-up or acquired by its presence in diseased tissues, as has already been suggested by Gibbs and Shurley. Many things in the action of germs suggest this theory. The various actions with stains and the effects of culture and attenuation are indicative of chemical processes.

Hypnotist Gray Must Die.

"TOPEKA, April 6.—The Kansas Supreme Court to-day confirmed the rulings of the District Court of Cowley County, which resulted in the conviction of Anderson Gray of murder in the first degree through the hypnotic power which he exerted upon the actual slayer.

"Thomas Patton was shot and killed near his home in Summer County on May 5, 1894, by Thomas McDonald. McDonald admitted the killing, but set up a defence that he was under the hypnotic influence of Gray, and that therefore he was not responsible for the act.

"McDonald was acquitted, and Gray was convicted, although it was admitted that he was not present when the killing was done."

As the above was scanned in the New York *World* our specks were rubbed and skin pinched in order to determine as to whether or not we were awake or in a horrid nightmare. The former condition being ascertained, we could not refrain from audibly exclaiming: Shades of Salem! Where are we at? All men—and women, too—should have a profound and abiding respect for the laws of the land, and for their majesty; but there are occasions when there is a justifiable cause for contempt, although so dignified a body as a State Supreme Court may not be made fully aware of the location of the despising disdain.

In the medieval ages witchcraft, sorcery and superstition were seemingly excusable, because of the condition of ignorance which prevailed among the people. Such darkness, no doubt, continues to exist in Central Africa, but that it should bob up in one of the most enlightened States in America is certainly staggering and incomprehensible to enlightened minds in this era of the world's history.

There is such a thing as the exercising influence of one controlling mind over that of another, but that this influence should extend to a causation of murder or the committal of any criminal act is glaringly preposterous. The guilty party was the one who directly committed the offense. Any other legal decision would demoralize all the conditions of an enlightened civilization. Hereafter an African voodoo chief will find a justification for his decisions by a reference to the precedent established April 6, 1895, in the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas.

The Supreme Court of the State of Ohio has rendered some decisions that are singularly peculiar as judicial acts, but for an illustration of the deepest shades of darkness this murderous, hypnotic judicial expression of the Supreme Court of the State of Kan-

sas takes precedence.—*The Cincinnati Lancet-Clinic.*

The above is a fair expression of the sentiment awakened by the famous Winfield case and the fallacious conclusions that have been drawn. It is true that McDonald was acquitted by the district court of Cowley county on the plea that he was unduly influenced by Gray, and that Gray had made him believe that Patton was seeking him with the intent to kill him. McDonald having been acquitted by the lower court, it should be remembered that the Supreme Court had nothing to do with his case. The case of Gray was taken to the Supreme Court, and the opinion of the lower court was affirmed, but at no time was the question of hypnotism introduced, and it formed no part of the evidence against Gray. This is according to a statement made by Chief Justice Horton. Had that word hypnotism been eliminated from the reports and the facts in the case presented as they were, and under a different caption, the judiciary of Kansas would have been lauded for its justice.

Castration of Criminals

Castration for crime has found many new advocates since the trial of Oscar Wilde began. Public sentiment has reached a point of intolerance, and the following by the editor of the *Texas Medical Journal* is the best expression of this sentiment we have seen:

Revelations in London, in connection with the arrest and imprisonment of Oscar Wilde for a "nameless crime," have shed a light, the phosphorent glow rather, that emanates from a charnel house, upon the man's character; and in that light we can now understand the ward of his intellectual nature. The perverted sexual sense has dominated his life, morally and intellectually. We now know him to be a moral monster, and we have always regarded him as an intellectual freak. We can read a deeper meaning now between the thoroughly enough disgusting lines of his salacious novels, and every sense of decency revolts at the suggestions therein brazenly presented, while a blush mantles the reader's cheek. Like some huge, filthy beast, wallowing in the spring whence flows a crystal stream where thousands drink, he has polluted the current of modern light literature; muddied the stream; aye—poisoned it! He is, and has been, an enemy to society, and there is no knowing the amount of harm he has done,—*not* alone in his writings—but by his bestial practices. He has prostituted youths—*boys*—to his depraved, perverted lust, and naturally has made criminals of them; for, what pride, sense of honor, self-respect, or respect for God or man, could such boy ever have, having been so degraded by this beast in human form?

Reformers may prate, and societies for moral purity may resolve; but there is but one remedy for the evil and that is—castration.

In the interest of morality, of humanity, of civilization; in the interest of the rising generations, and for the protection of youth from the accursed perverts of the leisure class of luxurious debauchees to which Wilde and Douglass belong—it is demanded; and Oscar Wilde should be the first example. "Nameless crimes?" Why should a civilization that will tolerate such crime blush at calling it by its proper name? It is a false modesty. The evil exists. We cannot shut our eyes to it, however gladly we would do so. The issue must be met; the evil eradicated.

Laws are made to meet crimes as they are developed in the progess of civilization. There is yet no law for these crimes against nature. In America, however revolting and abominable the crime, the criminal can only be indicted for a misdemeanor, and fined ten or twenty dollars. The statute should be changed, and each crime defined and classified, and a penalty attached to fit the crime. There is but one penalty for bestiality, pederasty and the like abominations, and that is castration. Imagine the moral effect upon the British aristocracy—the debauchees of his class—that public castration of the beast—Oscar Wilde—would have! It ought to be done!—Justice—poetic justice cries aloud for his damned—thrice damnable ap-

pendages. Upon the altar of morality, in the best interests of an outraged society—as an atonement, they should be offered up for the preservation of virtue and the protection of those youths whose hard lot, no doubt—want—cruel want,—hunger—starvation—drive them to submit to degradation a thousand times worse than death, in the desperate struggle for existance which their cruel environment has entailed. Who does not pity the boy—who can sufficiently execrate or denounce the vile parody on man who would thus gratify his beastly propensity! *Hanging* is too good for him. Let him be castrated and branded—"this is the man whom Lord Queensbury denounced to the police as a *criminal against nature*, the vilest known to even that body."

Book Reviews.

THE *Medical Herald* for April contains 64 pages of reading matter, a portrait of the late Docteur Dujardin-Beaumetz, and an elegant half-tone reproduction of that famous painting, "A Visit to Æsculapius," which is one of a series of art pictures presented each month in this magazine. The full set of twelve engravings is alone worth the subscription price, $2; clubbed with the KANSAS MEDICAL JOURNAL, $3 per annum. Send in your name now and secure the full set of pictures.

ANTISEPSIS AND ANTISEPTICS is a little book written by Charles Milton Buchanan, M.D., of Washington. It is certainly very interesting and well written. It gives the history of antisepsis and its development from very early times, and the suggestions which led up to its final perfection. The germ theory and the processes through which it reached maturity are carefully shown, as is also the birth of serum therapy. The greater part of the book is devoted to antiseptics and their relative value, and we believe that no drug which has the slightest claims to any antiseptic virtues has been omitted. It is published by the Terhune Company, Newark, N. J.; for sale by the Union Publishing Co., Topeka. Price, $1.25, or with the KANSAS MEDICAL JCURNAL one year for $2.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ANTISEPTIC CLUB, reported by Albert Abrams, a member of the San Francisco medical profession, published by E. B. Treat. Every physician must have recognized the fact that there is a ridiculous side to our medical enthusiasm, but it has never been so clearly portrayed as in this book. The publisher has given a very clear idea of its scope in the following notice:

"The seemingly perverted use of medicated pulp and carbonized ink is not always abortive of beneficial results. Truth is often a nauseous pill to swallow; here it has the sugar-coating and flavor of mirth-provoking humor. In the transactions of the Antiseptic Club the thoughtful physician will find much to awaken his curiosity and interest; from the organization of the club, the various papers read and discussed, the testimonials considered, the cases submitted, the hypoderm, and finally the dental clinic at its rooms, all will find redundant with effervescent exuberance. Charles Lamb says, 'A laugh is worth a hundred groans in any market.' Here a hundred laughs may be provoked to animate the muscles of mirth, atrophied from the disuse incident to the cares and anxieties of medical practice. Those in quest of a case find here a needed repose in the refreshing outbursts of wit and humor which bubble and sparkle with health giving cheer as the tale is told; and not a line will be found to be 'extra dry.'"

For sale by the Union Publishing Co., Topeka. Price, $1.75; with the KANSAS MEDICAL JOURNAL one year, $2.50.

For Sale.

Part of Dr. Reid Alexander's medical library. Also microscope and Otis urethretome. Address W. A. Alexander, Kellam Book and Stationary Co., Topeka.

Successful Treatment of Pulmonary Consumption.

Maryland Medical Journal.

Dr. Charles Wilson Ingraham records in the *American Medico-Surgical Bulletin* what he calls a successful method of treating pulmonary consumption. It consists according to this authority of a chemical combination of iodine, bromine, thymol and phosphorus and is used hypodermically with apparently marvelous results, the article, which is very rose-colored throughout, is concluded as follows:

The formula for the preparation of 100 drachms of "bromine-iodine comp.," as I call the mixture, is as follows:

Phosphorus, 1 grain.
Bromine, 7 grains.
Thymol, 200 grains.
Iodine, 200 grains.
Sterilized oil, ad 100 drachms.

After uniting the elements and thoroughly dissolving them in the oil, the mixture should be allowed to stand in a glass mortar for at least twelve hours, and frequently subjected to thorough stirring. After this it should be placed in a filter; in some instances it is necessary to filter two or three times. The greatest care should be taken to obtain chemically pure drugs.

The commencing dose of the above formula is twenty minims, which should be administered in the early part of the day, before the temperature is much elevated. The dose should be gradually increased, and at the end of the first week one drachm should be injected. In severe cases two injections of one drachm each may be given after the second week of treatment, the second injection being given immediately after the midday meal. The preferable site of injection is the back part of the upper arm and in the loose tissue on the back part of the shoulders.

The strictest antiseptic rules should be observed in its preparation and administration, to prevent irritation at the site of injection. When properly given it occasions but little pain, and can be taken by the most sensitive patient. The hypodermic syringe should be cleansed often with pure alcohol. A gold needle should be used, and when not in use should be immersed in alcohol.

As a rule, I inject from twenty to sixty minims of the solution, which is rapidly absorbed; the patient frequently noticing the odor of the injection in the breath.

The site of the injection should be sprayed before and after with alcohol, to which ether can be added, if desired. I have administered nearly ten thousand of these injections, and have never seen any unpleasant effects, except slight irritation when antiseptic measures were not properly observed, which caused a total of four localized abscesses.

The effects of the bromine-iodine comp. injection upon the system of a case of pulmonary tuberculosis are as follows:

Intra-organic oxidation, nutrition and assimilation are stimulated to healthy action and the system becomes changed from a condition of depraved nutrition, imperfect oxidation of the tissues, and rapid waste of the body, to a highly vitalized condition; the germicidal powers of the fluids of the body become increased and gradually regain their normal standard by the increase in the quantity and the improvement in the quality of the red blood corpuscle, by the more perfect cellular oxidation, by the checking of suppuration, and cleansing the blood of septic matter absorbed from the lungs, and the consequent reduction of fever.

I might further state that in cases of acute phthisis, particularly of a miliary form, this treatment exerts only a limited controlling effect, and I make no claim whatever as to its value in that class of disease. In hemorrhagic cases a considerably longer period of treatment is necessary, although it seems to check the hemorrhages from the start. In three notable cases of this class, who were having hemorrhages very frequently, and were, as a result, very much reduced in strength, no hemorrhages occurred after ten days' treatment.

With the exception of a few simple remedies to relieve symptoms, I administer no medicines by the stomach except nutritive

preparations.

Bromine-iodine comp. has also proved to have extraordinary control over chronic bronchial asthma and in various sub-acute and chronic bronchial diseases.

The Code Controversy.

New York Medical Times.

The code controversy will not down and the American Medical Association will doubtless be obliged to modify its position in regard to it to meet this change in views, which is rapidly growing, and which will result, if it goes on, in the disintegration and final annihilation of this august body.

The Cleveland Medical Society and the Mississippi Valley Medical Association have recently joined the Medical Society of the State of New York in its onslaught upon the code, and the combination must have a powerful influence in bringing the National body to its senses.

The American Academy of Medicine.

Medical Record.

The twentieth annual meeting of the American Academy of Medicine will be held in one of the buildings of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, on Saturday, May 4, and on Monday, May 6, 1895. The headquarters of the Fellows of the Academy and the meetings of the Council will be at the Stafford. The meeting will open at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning with an executive session of the Fellows of the Academy exclusively; the reading of the papers will begin at about 11. The morning session will close at 1 o'clock and the session of Saturday afternoon will extend from 3 to 6.

The "reunion session" will be held on Saturday evening. By a standing rule the price of the tickets for the supper is fixed at $2. Attendance at the reunion session is not confined to the Fellows exclusively, hence any member may bring friends with him by arranging for their tickets with the committee.

For the past two years ladies have been present at this session and have added to the enjoyment.

The session of Monday will begin with a short executive meeting, after which the reading of papers will be resumed; after a recess at 1, the afternoon session will begin at 3 and continue until adjournment. Members of the profession and others who may be interested in the topics treated by the papers are cordially invited to attend the open sessions of the Academy.

Observation on Treatment of Fibroids of the Uterus.

Dr. O. S. Phelps, of New York (*American Medico-Surgical Bulletin*), reports an unusually complicated case of uterine fibroid in a girl 17 years of age, who came under his care in July, 1894. She was sent from the West to New York by the family physician to have a hysterectomy performed, and came directly to his sanitarium. The tumor was eight to ten centimeters in diameter, and crowded the uterus well over to the left side. The uterine cavity measured five inches and the organ with its appendages was surrounded and bound down by an inflammatory exudate. The bladder was impinged upon so that it could not hold more than one or two ounces of urine, causing the patient great agony to evacuate it. The whole mass, including tumor, exudate, uterus and appendages filled the pelvis and rose well up to the umbilicus. The patient was much emaciated, weighed 60 pounds (normal weight 125 pounds), could not stand or walk, nor could she turn in bed without great pain. Temperature 100° to 103°. Dr. A. H. Goelet was called in consultation and confirmed the diagnosis; he also agreed that no operation could be considered at that time, but thought ligation of the uterine arteries might be resorted to later. The treatment adopted was the high tension faradic current, 15 minutes, thrice daily, vagina-sacral and abdominal. At each seance the temperature was reduced ½° to

1°, lasting one to two hours. A system of feeding was adopted under guidance of microscopical observations of the blood and secretions to determine the correct choice of foods. In two months the temperature remained normal and the weight had increased thirty pounds. Galvanism was then used with anode to tumor per vaginam, by means of special clay electrode with cathode closely adapted to tumor over abdomen; 20 to 30 milliamperes of current, seven to ten minutes, every five days. January 15, tumor was reduced to a mere nodule, about the size of a walnut, exudation gone, uterine cavity measured 2¾ inches. Patient's weight was then 125 pounds.

Conclusions.—The writer ascribes the favorable results in this case:

First—To a systematic plan for restoring the nutrition under such favorable conditions as are afforded by a sanitarium.

Second—To the persistent use of the high tension faradic current to allay pain, reduce inflammation and induce absorption.

Third—To the galvanic current, so applied as to concentrate its action upon the fibroid growth.

The Prejudice Against Unmarried Physicians.

Virginia Medical Monthly.

No one can have read the charming autobiography of J. Marion Sims without being impressed by the difficulties and discouragements which confront a young doctor at the outset of his professional career. He, of course, realizes that he is inexperienced, and that owing to an accusing personal appearance he must plead guilty to the soft impeachment of being a young man, but he hopes that time will remedy both defects, and that by hard work well directed he will be able to demonstrate to the community the ability he feels he possesses.

So, appealing to his ambition for support, he sets patiently to work, only to find after four or five years that he is apparently confronted by another obstacle to success, one so absurd that it did not enter into his previous calculation—he is unmarried.

Almost daily in his practice some patient expresses the wish that he had a wife, and the constant repetition of "Why don't you get married?" forces him to consider the question, and to try to determine the grounds upon which the public objects to employing an unmarried physician.

The objection cannot be based upon a supposed lack of sympathy on the part of one who has no wife or child of his own, for even if a physician were employed for honeyed words and soothing looks rather than for nauseous but curative physic, the end would much more probably be obtained by employing a young man than one with blunted feelings and shop-worn sensibilities from long familiarity and constant association with suffering.

The objection cannot be based upon the fear that professional confidences will not be regarded as sacred, and that the unmarried man will show less discretion than the happy possessor of a trusted, but often foolish wife, into whose ears he pours the story of each day, with its doubts and fears, its anxieties and perplexities, its gossips and scandals.

The objection cannot be based upon the fear that the doctor will win the affection of his patient and entangle her into a matrimonial alliance, for the same person whose presence is objectionable in the sick room is welcomed in the parlor, and his attentions are frequently received with flattering encouragement.

The only possible explanation left is one that is more than a reflection on the doctor's morals, and an objection that could not possibly be entertained of a physician, who except for his being unmarried, would willingly be intrusted with the life of the patient.

All things being equal, the unmarried man has many advantages over one who is married, and if possessed of equal health, industry, ability and opportunity is the better doctor of the two. He is his own master, his mind is not occupied by domestic cares, his interest is not divided between his

work and his family, and his time can be wholly devoted to the study of disease, and the care of his patients. Medicine is an exacting mistress, and for her smiles and favors, demands singleness of purpose and undivided devotion.

Until matrimony shall prove itself a stimulus to mental development and a moral safeguard, it cannot possibly enter into the question. Certainly the history of medicine has not shown that the men who are married are either wiser or better than those who are single.

The doubt of the propriety of employing an unmarried man as the family physician is based upon more logical grounds than his civil condition. The real objection is his youth, supposed lack of experience, and the belief that his ability is not equal to others who have been longer in the profession. Often this fact is not appreciated by the perturbed head of the house, and when it is, consideration for the doctor's feelings, attributes the lack of confidence to his being unmarried, rather than to his being ignorant, it being the most remedial evil of the two. The belief that there is a popular prejudice against an unmarried physician is a fallacy. Matrimony will not increase confidence in a man's professional ability, and he who enters into the bonds of holy wedlock for purely selfish or mercenary motives will receive a richly deserved disappointment.

Ichthyol in the Treatment of Tuberculosis.

The Times and Register.

At a meeting of the Royal Academy of Turin on March 8, Scarpa (*Gazz. degli Osped. e delle Cliniche*, March 16) communicated the results obtained in 150 cases of pulmonary phthisis treated with ichthyol between April, 1894, and January, 1895. Having referred to the favorable results of the treatment reported reported by Cohn, of Hamburg, in 100 cases of the same disease, the author pointed out that from what was known of the action of ichthyol as an astringent of the vascular system, as an antiseptic, as a disinfectant of the digestive apparatus, and as an ailment d'epargne it was a priori presumable that it would be useful in phthisis. He employed the drug in the purest possible state, dissolved in the proportion of one-third in distilled water or any suitable vehicle. Of this solution he gave from 20 to 180 or 200 drops, dissolved in water, in the course of the day. The remedy was in all cases well borne. No other treatment was employed beyond attention to the hygienic environment and feeding up. Of the 150 cases 23 died; all these were in a desperate condition before the treatment was begun; but even in them the ichthyol appeared to do good. Of the remaining cases 17 were apparently cured; in 50 there was notable improvement; in 28, up to the date of report, the treatment had produced no effect. The good effect of the ichthyol shows itself first in the influence which it has on the symptoms produced by the local lesions—cough, expectoration, dyspnea—afterward on the general condition. Physical examination shows profound modifications in the lesions, especially in the circumscribed infiltrations of the early stage, but also not infrequently those of the breaking-down stage. The author does not attempt to decide whether the ichthyol acts only by improving nutrition or also by direct action on the lesions, or by neutralizing the toxins produced by micro-organisms—both Koch's bacillus and the staphylococci, etc., which are causes of secondary infections. He insists on the advantages which ichthyol presents over guaiacol in the treatment of tuberculosis.

Itching of Urticaria.

Burgess has found the greatest success in the use of the following wash:

℞ Hydrarg. perchloridi.....gr. iss
Chloroformi.....m. xx
Glycerini.....℥ ij
Aq. rosæ.....ad. ℥ viij
M.

Sig. To be dabbed on the affected parts.

Notice.

To the Editor.

Having had a number of inquiries regarding the railway fare to the meeting of the State Society, I wrote Mr. Black for further particulars. His reply is found below.

G. A. WALL, M.D.

TOPEKA, KAS., April 8, 1895.

Dr. G. A. Wall, Topeka, Kas.—DEAR SIR: Answering your favor of the 6th inst. inquiring if any specified number should be in attendance at the Kansas Medical Society annual meeting, to be held at Topeka, May 16 and 17, in order that reduced rates may be granted: Beg to advise that a fare and one-third on the certificate plan, which is the rate authorized for the above meeting, requires that 100 be in attendance by rail.

Yours truly.

W. J. BLACK, A. G. P. A.

Tonic and Alterative in Nervous Dyspepsia.

Stearns' Cascara Aromatic.....2 fl. oz.
Fluid ext. belladonna root.....1 fl. dr.
Fluid ext. nux vomica.....1 fl. dr.
Fowler's solution.....1 fl. dr.
Simple elixir, q. s.....4 fl. oz.
Mix. Sig.: Dose, ½ to 1 teaspoonful.

A Significant Fact.

The Daily Lancet.

According to no less an authority than Moleschott, the ideal diet for the human adult comprises twice as much starch or other carbo-hydrates as all meats, fats and salts combined.

It is a well known fact that starch is first changed by digestion into a pecular form of sugar, and finally into fat. It is thus the fuel of the body. This information, while in no sense new, is worthy of careful thought and study.

What physician has not repeatedly asked himself the questions, "How can I put flesh on this patient's bones?" or, "How can I stop the continual loss in weight, which can have but one end?"

It is fat that such patients need, and it avails nothing to give them foods which are either indigestible or offensive to the palate. This precludes the use of cod liver oil and other fats, as well as most forms of starch, for patients of the type described are almost invariably troubled with impaired digestion, and whenever starches fail to properly digest they undergo rapid fermentation, thus setting up a chain of secondary disorders which are quite as annoying as the original disease.

It is for this reason that Paskola promises to be such a valuable addition to the materia medica.

Its basis is an artificially digested starch, which presents fuel to the body in a readily assimilable form. It conserves energy by relieving the system of the necessity of digestive effort, and by the happy combination with it of a small proportion of hydrochloric acid, the natural acid of the gastric juice, and meat-digesting ferments, it is given a decided value as an aid to the digestion of other foods.

Paskola stands unique among preparations of its class, and has now been on the market long enough to clearly establish its very exceptional value in the treatment of anæmia, general malnutrition or troubles attributable to deranged digestion whether gastric or intestinal.

Conception.

Medical Brief.

The menstrual cycle, if it may be so termed, consisting of 28 days, usually, and embracing time of menstrual flux and intervening days, may be divided into two periods, viz., a genetic and an agenetic period. The genetic period embraces the first 18 days of the menstrual cycle. During this period conception is most likely to occur. If conception occurs within the first third of this period, the parental vigor being equal or nearly so, the child will be a girl; but if conception occurs within the last third the child will be a boy. Within the second third, the earlier or later period in which conception occurs will govern the sex approximately.

The agenetic period embraces from the nineteenth day to the close of the menstrual cycle. Within this period conception rarely occurs.